



**NDE Vision:** *All Nevadans ready for success in a global 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

**NDE Mission:** *To improve student achievement and educator effectiveness by ensuring opportunities, facilitating learning, and promoting excellence*

## **What you should know about the Nevada School Accountability System**

### **Federal Law**

- In December of 2015, President Obama reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education ACT (ESEA) by signing the bi-partisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Under ESSA
  - Nevada's ESEA Waiver which describes the current Nevada accountability system expired in August of 2016.
  - The Nevada Department of Education is required to develop and operationalize a new school accountability system based on the 2017-2018 school year.
  - The new state accountability system must "meaningfully differentiate" schools based on:
    - Academic Proficiency on State assessments;
    - Graduation rates for high school;
    - English Language Proficiency;
    - Growth or other state wide academic indicator for K-8 schools;
    - At least one other State set indicator of school quality or student success; and
    - 95% assessment participation rate.

### **State Law**

- Nevada Revised Statute (385A.670) requires the Nevada Department of Education to determine whether each public school is meeting the annual measurable objectives and performance targets established pursuant to the statewide system of accountability for public schools on or before July 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Between July 31<sup>st</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>, the Nevada Department of Education engages in a review of each school's preliminary rating (Nevada Revised Statute 385A.720) and prepares school reports for public access.
- Nevada Revised Statute (385A.720) requires the Nevada Department of Education to make final determinations of school ratings on or before September 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Timeline for school ratings**

- Although Nevada Revised Statute requires SY1516 final school ratings to be posted by September 15, 2016, The Every Student Succeeds Act does not require states to post ratings for schools until fall of 2018. The Nevada Department of Education is taking this time to continue soliciting stakeholder feedback on the accountability system.
- In expectation of the new accountability system, on September 15, 2016, NDE is posting a school rating report prototype. This report prototype displays school quality indicators and measures that are likely to be incorporated into the 2017 Nevada school accountability system.
- Furthermore, once all 2015-2016 assessment results become available, NDE will post individual school reports in January 2017. These report prototypes are informational only and will not include a school rating.
- New school ratings will not be calculated and released until September 15, 2017.
- Since the ratings in the Fall of 2017 will be determined by a new accountability system, the Nevada Department of Education will be engaged with stakeholders between now and then to set the standards that will result in the school ratings.